



900 Chapel St., 9th Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-2807  
Phone (203) 498-3000 • Fax (203) 562-6314 • [www.ccm-ct.org](http://www.ccm-ct.org)

**THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**HOUSING COMMITTEE**

March 4, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**Raised Senate Bill 321, "*An Act Concerning the State's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development.*"**

Connecticut is experiencing a housing crisis that is expected to worsen as the state and country remain in an economic downturn. More than 10% of the housing stock in only 31 of the 169 CT municipalities is affordable under DECD standards.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, since 1990, the lack of affordable housing in the state has resulted in the loss of more 25-34 year old workforce than any other state in the nation.<sup>2</sup>

Connecticut must make the necessary investments in the development and maintenance of affordable housing to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents. To do this will require out-of-the-box thinking and leveraging federal financing with state funds, among other approaches.

We urge the State to continue to prioritize its funding programs through DECD in order to develop and strengthen those programs that provide greater flexibility for municipalities - allowing towns and cities to use broad state standards for town-specific initiatives. To that end, we urge DECD to work closely with communities when devising rules and regulations.

## ## ##

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate  
via email [dhamzy@ccm-ct.org](mailto:dhamzy@ccm-ct.org) or via phone (203) 498-3000.

---

<sup>1</sup> Housing and The Workforce: Facts, Figures and Food for Thought, 2009, Partnership for Strong Communities  
<sup>2</sup> Housing and The Workforce: Facts, Figures and Food for Thought, 2009, Partnership for Strong Communities